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The Office action of 26 June 2006 (Paper No. 20060621) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 7 thru 15 and 17 thru 23 as set forth in the PTO-326 of Paper No. 20060621 is appreciated.

Claims 1, 4, 12, 16 and 21-23 are being amended. Thus, claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 thru 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being allegedly incomplete for omitting essential steps. The Examiner contends that such omission amounts to a gap between the steps.

Independent claim 1 is being amended to recite the method of designing a video signal processing integrated circuit (IC) in terms of three steps. In the first step, a luminance signal processing block and a color signal processing block having a de-emphasis circuit are incorporated into the video signal processing IC. In the second step, a circuit element for determining a level of the reproduced video signal of the de-emphasis circuit is incorporated into the video processing IC. Finally, in the third step, the circuit element is connected to a ground which is used exclusively for the luminance signal processing block.

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As now amended, independent claim 1 recites the method in terms of three steps with no gaps therebetween. Thus, independent claim 1 meets the requirement of 35 U.S.C. Page §112 (second paragraph), and rejection based on that statute should be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 4 is being amended to insert the word "the" before the word "ground" since the "ground" has been previously recited in independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 12 and 16 are being amended to correct their dependency to independent claim 11. The previous recitation of dependency on claims 10 and 1, respectively, was in error, and thus the current amendment of dependent claims 12 and 16 corrects these errors.

Dependent claims 21-23 are being amended to replace the term "gain-control" by "gain control" since the latter term is recited in preceding claim 18, that claim reciting "gain control switching unit for determining a gain of the amplifier" (quoting from claim 18, line 5).

Finally, dependent claims 22 and 23 are also being amended to correct their dependency to preceding claim 18 since it is in the latter claim that the "gain control switching unit" is recited.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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